



# PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

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## Archaeological Work Begins at Fort Christanna

DHR staff, Archeological Society of Virginia volunteers, and William & Mary student interns mapped, excavated, and located boundaries during the first stage of an extensive, four-year archaeological research project at Fort Christanna in July.

Archaeological findings from the excavation at the Brunswick County fort will provide insight into the interaction between the English colonists and Saponi Indians who lived there.

Fort Christanna was established during one of the first waves of expansion from Jamestown and Tidewater to Virginia's Piedmont and beyond. Previous discoveries at the fort reveal the story of the pioneering efforts of Governor Spotswood of Williamsburg to control fur trade along the Virginia frontier from 1714 to 1719. The fort also holds clues about displaced Saponi Indians who gathered there seeking protection from enemy tribes.

This summer, the archaeological team worked at the fort to lay the groundwork for future larger-scale excavations. The team mapped the site topography, relocated past test unit boundaries excavated in 1979–1981, and established a new metric grid over the site. Team members began new excavations along what may be the palisade line of the



*Volunteers peel back the forest carpet to reveal work done at Fort Christanna in 1981.*

fort where they found artifacts such as pipe fragments and a copper button. They searched for the undiscovered Saponi village in a flood plain that revealed prehistoric activity. The next phases of excavation will be conducted in 2001 and 2002.

Research of this culturally enriched site would not have been possible without the stewardship of the Colonial Dames of Virginia, which purchased the property in 1923, preserving it from destruction. Brunswick County officials also exemplified good stewardship in applying for a grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation that protected the adjacent 23-acre tract of the archaeological district from destruction. The Earthwatch Institute will be contributing to funding the project.

Findings will be made available for an interpretive exhibit at the Wilton House Museum of the Colonial Dames. The fort is proposed as a stop on the upcoming Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail.

– *Katherine Harding*

### In This Issue:

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- Dangers of Burning Paint
- “History Underfoot” Teacher’s Institute
- Cost Share Awards Announced
- Virginia Outdoors Plan Coming Soon
- Toolbox Campaign Update

## Preservation Funding

Funding for the preservation of historic resources continues in full force around Virginia and the nation. This fiscal year, the General Assembly awarded 75 grants representing \$7,834,453 to historic organizations. Of those, 42 historic properties received nearly \$2.7 million for projects involving preservation and nine museums were awarded more than \$450,000 for rehabilitation projects.

Five Certified Local Governments (CLGs) were awarded \$65,651 for 2001. The department administers the CLG program, which provides partnership opportunities for local governments developing heritage and stewardship initiatives. Twenty-four local governments in Virginia have been designated as CLGs. This year's recipients include Arlington and Fairfax Counties, the towns of Leesburg and Monterey, and the city of Suffolk. In addition to being eligible for financial support, CLGs benefit from state technical assistance and play a formal role in resource recognition programs.

This was an important year for Virginia's threatened battlefields. The General Assembly allotted \$3.4 million for the final piece of a 2-to-1 match of funds appropriated by Congress in 1998. With funding secured from private groups and the state, a new public-private partnership is now in place. The state appropriation will be awarded to private institutions and local governments through grants managed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. In 1999, the foundation awarded grants totaling \$421,780 to cultural projects seeking to preserve a variety of resource types. In the 2000 session, significantly increased funds were allotted to enhance use of this important tool.

Lynchburg, Danville, and Waynesboro joined the Virginia Main Street communities in 2000, bringing Virginia's total to 19. During the last 15 years, thousands of jobs have been created and more than \$100 million in private money has been invested in Virginia's Main Street communities. The program provides a framework for communities that puts the traditional assets of a downtown, such as unique architecture and locally-owned businesses, to work as a catalyst for economic growth and community pride.

### **General Assembly Historic Preservation Grants**

*Eligibility: nonprofit organizations and local governments*

- § Submit application to DHR by date the General Assembly convenes
- § Line up legislative support to introduce a budget amendment for funding
- § Secure matching share at least equal to grant amount
- § Follow state procurement regulations for grants of \$10,000 or more
- § Donate a preservation easement for grants of \$50,000 or more in a four-year period
- § Consult DHR to ensure resource is eligible or listed on the state register
- § Receive DHR approval on plans prior to execution

Contact: Ann Andrus, (804) 863-1622,  
[aandrus@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:aandrus@dhr.state.va.us)

In June, the Virginia Department of Transportation awarded \$19.4 million for 118 transportation enhancement projects. Just over 40 of the projects involved the preservation of historic architectural or archaeological resources. Preservation projects ranged from renovation of historic depots and taverns and downtown revitalization to placement of historic markers along streetscapes. Since the program's inception in 1991, 477 enhancement projects have received a total of \$88 million.

Save America's Treasures, a national historic preservation program, awarded \$1 million grant to Montpelier this year to assist in the restoration of the private chambers of Dolly Madison. The program designated 26 Virginia historic sites as official Save America's Treasures projects to raise public awareness of significant preservation efforts.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program awarded \$138,064 in matching grants to 10 Virginia "Gateways"—resources such as wildlife preserves, museums, parks, and water trails. The gateways will participate in a network joining Maryland Gateways to enhance bay-related resources, improve interpretation and education about the bay, and foster stewardship.

— *Katherine Harding*

## Director's Notes

### The Road to 2007: Commemorating 400 Years of History

2007 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and the beginning of both Virginia and the nation. In 2007, the entire world will be looking to Virginia, and international travelers will visit in increasing numbers. Communities across the state have an unprecedented opportunity to join in the commemoration and to use it as a means to realize the economic, educational, and community benefits of historic preservation and heritage tourism. With visitors coming to Virginia in 2007, now is the time to prepare.

To that end, the Virginia Cultural Network, a consortium of 19 statewide organizations dedicated to cultural collaboration, is helping Jamestown 2007 compile a Community Resource Guide filled with information about how to define communitywide projects of lasting benefit. The guide will explain how localities can become official 2007 communities, will provide models of success stories, funding resources, and statewide 2007 programs, and will call on available resources to make each preservation project, heritage trail or festival, or other venue a success.

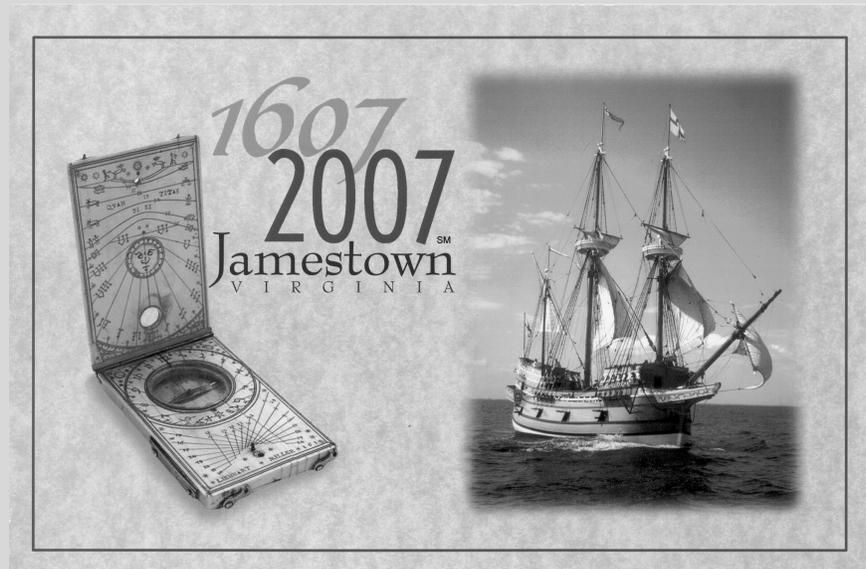
The guide will be published soon and distributed to communities across Virginia. Visit the 2007 web site at [www.celebration2007.org](http://www.celebration2007.org) to volunteer, give suggestions, or find more information about the opportunities 2007 presents for your community.

In addition to promoting 2007 through agency programs and networks, the VCN members have generated more than 75 program proposals leading up to and culminating in 2007. Proposed VCN programs range from major archaeology excavations and nationwide genealogy programs to blockbuster exhibits and a host of local and regional events.

In this issue's cover story, you will see the exciting work that has begun at Fort Christanna in Brunswick County. Archaeological excavation of the site, led by department archaeologist Chris Stevenson, will result in the fort becoming a major feature of a regional heritage trail. The excavation and interpretation of the fort are being made possible through the generosity and exemplary stewardship of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the property's owners, and Brunswick County officials.

Preservation funding sources are outlined in the article appearing on page 2. From the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to TEA-21 grants, opportunities are increasing for securing financial support for worthy historic preservation, cultural landscape, and heritage tourism projects.

– Alex Wise



## The Dangers of Burning Paint

Unless you want the thrill of becoming a volunteer fireman, do not even consider using a blowtorch to remove paint from a historic building. Butane, propane, and gasoline torches used to hasten the chore of stripping wood are risky around a new house and even more dangerous around an old one. State code requires anyone using a torch or open flame to obtain a permit to remove paint, have an approved fire extinguisher nearby, and remain on site for at least one hour after the work is done. If fire breaks out due to the misuse of a torch, insurance companies will fight paying off the claim. So if the idea of using an open flame to remove paint on your building does not scare you, it should.



*Heat guns can soften paint on solid surfaces before it is scraped. Use extreme caution.*

prior to scraping if used on solid surfaces. Never apply heat to surfaces with cavities! Improper use of heat can cause fires. Chemical strippers can be used effectively, again with hand scraping, to remove paint from flat surfaces and decorative details. Strippers should be used with extreme caution because they are both toxic and combustible.

The following methods of paint removal are **not** recommended: First a blowtorch. Remember that fires can easily start in dead air pockets and in crevices. Sandblasting is an abrasive method that damages wood by raising the grain and creating a fuzzy surface after blasting. Repainting the wood becomes more difficult! Water blasting is abrasive and has the added problem of forcing water into the building's cracks and joints; this causes rot and further paint failure.

Remember *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* recommends that "the surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible." Still, the list of historic buildings destroyed or severely damaged by fire resulting from the use of flame or heat to remove paint is growing alarmingly long. Burning paint on old buildings is so dangerous that unless you are willing to lose your building, *the only time to burn paint is never!*

– Bill Crosby

## Teachers Introduced to Archaeology at Institute

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) invited DHR to co-host the Teachers' Institute after the enthusiastic response to last year's archaeology program. Sixteen teachers from elementary, middle, and high schools attended this two-week program.

Teachers participated in four days of classroom discussions and hands-on activities in the archaeology labs at DHR. Speakers included Virginia archaeologists and forensic and site protection specialists. Participants discussed prehistory, historic sites, artifact conservation,

Here is why: There is the obvious reason—the open flame can easily scorch and ignite wood. Additionally, most frame buildings have an air space between the exterior sheathing and siding and the interior lath and plaster. This cavity usually holds an accumulation of debris (dust, bird's nests, leaves, etc.) that is easily ignited by an open flame. In fact, dust is combustible at a **lower** temperature than wood. A spark can smolder for hours undetected, bursting into flame later when no one is around to sound the alarm.

It is better to use one of the following methods of paint removal recommended as safe for both the operator and for the building fabric. Hand scraping or sanding, although time consuming, are effective and gentle. Heat plates or heat guns can soften paint

prior to scraping if used on solid surfaces. Never apply heat to surfaces with cavities! Improper use of heat can cause fires. Chemical strippers can be used effectively, again with hand scraping, to remove paint from flat surfaces and decorative details. Strippers should be used with extreme caution because they are both toxic and combustible.

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and current issues in archaeology. A field trip to the Jamestown Rediscovery site and Jamestown Settlement provided a look at archaeologists at work. During the second week of the institute, the teachers participated in an ongoing field excavation at one of 11 sites.

The teachers created lesson plans, based on what they had learned about archaeology at the institute, that are posted on VHS's web site at [www.vahistorical.org/educat/lessplan.htm](http://www.vahistorical.org/educat/lessplan.htm)

– Beth Acuff



*Stonega, Wise County, will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places through the Cost Share Program.*

## 2000-2001 Cost Share Awards

Communities across Virginia are continuing to take stock of their historic resources. This year, 24 localities applied to the Cost Share Survey and Planning Program requesting more than \$300,000 for more than \$619,000 worth of work. Eighteen localities received grants (*see sidebar*).

Several recipients for 2000/2001 grants are implementing projects to enhance and complement their local comprehensive plans—a new trend in the program. While the majority of last year’s projects were countywide surveys, this year several of Virginia’s larger municipalities and towns are undertaking national register nominations, one of DHR’s most effective planning tools. Roanoke, Waynesboro, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hopewell, Bristol, Clarksville, and Front Royal will pursue nominations for historic districts. Designation of historic districts will allow local residents to use the preservation tax credit program for historic rehabilitations and often leads to community revitalization and enhanced community pride.

In Wise County, the cost share project will nominate Derby and Stonega, two early coal towns, to the National Register of Historic Places, resulting in well-deserved recognition for one of Virginia’s distinctive resource types. “The communities of Derby and Stonega are living examples of the growth of the coal industry in Southwest Virginia. These communities offer a glimpse into a way of life that will never be repeated in the coalfields,” reads the cost share application from Wise County.

The DHR Cost Share Program is unique in its funding techniques and administration. Each spring, DHR invites local governments to submit proposals for survey and planning projects. These projects include survey of architectural and archaeological resources, preparation of illustrated reports on those resources, preparation of national register nominations, or development of local preservation plans. The local government must agree to pay for up to half the budget for the project; DHR funds the balance. In addition, DHR agrees to provide all the administrative support, including hiring a professional consultant to do the work, paying the bills, and ensuring timely delivery of satisfactory products.

– Margaret Peters

### Localities Awarded Cost Share Grants

Arlington County	Norfolk
Bristol	Prince William County
Chesapeake	Roanoke (city)
Clarksville	Scottsville
Fauquier County	Suffolk
Front Royal	Washington County
Grayson County	Waynesboro
Hopewell	Westmoreland County
Loudoun County	Wise County

## Outdoors Plan Coming Soon

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is updating the *Virginia Outdoors Plan* for the acquisition, development, and management of Virginia’s significant outdoor recreation and open space resources. The plan contains an inventory of public and private recreation areas and facilities, and an open space and recreation demand survey. A report of a recently completed inventory of 6,000 sites and survey assessment of 40 outdoor activities will be made available to the public this summer.

Public input is the key to the success of the plan. Organizations and the general public are invited to attend public meetings in each planning district in October. The meetings will ascertain changes that should be considered and current issues or trends not in the 1996 document that should be addressed in the new version. The 1996 plan can be found at local libraries or on the DCR web site at [www.state.va.us/~dcr/](http://www.state.va.us/~dcr/).



*Douthat State Park, listed on the state and national registers, was one of the first six state parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.*

DCR also solicits public opinion on how the 2001 plan can be a more effective guide in all areas of conservation, outdoor recreation, and open-space protection. The information gathered at the public meetings will be incorporated into a draft document that will be provided to the public for review in late winter or early spring. It will also contain recommendations from local governments, citizens, conservation organizations, and state and federal agencies.

A public meeting schedule will be published in the *Virginia Register*, and may be advertised in local newspapers. The meeting dates, times, and locations will be listed on the DCR web site. Anyone who cannot attend these meetings may provide comments by writing to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 203 Governor Street, Suite 326, Richmond, Virginia 23219, Attn: R. G. Gibbons. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail at [vop@dcr.state.va.us](mailto:vop@dcr.state.va.us).

– *Richard Gibbons, DCR*

### From Our Clients

“The Cost Share Program has sparked wide recognition of what we’ve got. Brunswick County has created a tourism department, and the town is now focusing on revitalizing the downtown area. The Civil Rights Trail is building on findings of the program. Homes are being rehabilitated by out-of-state investors.”

– *Douglas Pond, Lawrenceville town manager*

## Toolbox Update

*Note: The Community Awareness Campaign (CAC) is a grassroots push to put Virginia’s history to work in every locality. CAC leaders promote the economic and community benefits of historic preservation in their communities.*

Deborah Murdoch reports that the Fluvanna County Historical Society and DHR’s capital region office will present a workshop on nominating resources to the state and national registers. ĩ Les French, Portsmouth, developed a presentation about the previously threatened Wright House. Public and private organizations partnered to save it, spurring renewal on nearby blocks. ĩ Michele Schiesser notes that the Spotsylvania Historic Preservation Commission has encouraged the county to become a Certified Local Government. Planning is beginning for the expansion of the courthouse historic district, and the county produced a brochure explaining the benefits of the district. Schiesser gave a toolbox presentation to the planning commission. ĩ Chris Gregson is working with the Henrico Heritage Alliance, a countywide committee, to organize two public information programs in October based on the toolbox initiative. ĩ Janet Whitehouse advises that Fauquier County received an TEA-21 grant to erect highway signs at the Mosby Heritage Area. The board of supervisors declared Historic Preservation Week, and the Preservation Alliance of Virginia (PAV) praised the county for its efforts to protect the Paris Valley—on the PAV’s list of the 10 most endangered historic sites. ĩ Dennis Farmer notes that five private heritage organizations, in cooperation with Chesterfield County, formed the Chesterfield Heritage Roundtable, which is developing an action agenda. ĩ Judy Reynolds, Shenandoah County, reports that the county and six towns issued Historic Preservation Week proclamations. During that week, the Shenandoah Preservation League presented preservation awards. The league is pursuing scenic byway designation for a network of historic roads, planning a workshop to educate citizens on preservation issues, and creating a revolving fund to purchase endangered properties and sell them with protective easements. ĩ Evelyn Chandler, Isle of Wight County, presided over the dedication of the rehabilitated Boykin’s Tavern. The landmark was threatened with demolition when Chandler stepped in and chaired the initiative that raised \$1.1 million to save it. It is now under a preservation easement. ĩ Cornelia Vranian reports that momentum is building in Lynchburg to revitalize the downtown and the riverfront. The Lynchburg Historical Foundation sponsored a historic summit that drew more than 100 people from preservation and heritage groups.

– *Mary Ruffin Hanbury*

# Calendar of Events

## September

**13 Joint Board Meeting** (Richmond). Quarterly meeting to consider nomination of historic properties to the national and state registers. Location: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 10 a.m. Contact: Marc Wagner, (804) 367-2323, ext. 115, [mwagner@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:mwagner@dhr.state.va.us).

### Upcoming Board Meetings

December 6, 2000  
 March 14, 2001  
 June 13, 2001  
 September 12, 2001  
 December 5, 2001

**15 Highway Marker Application Deadline** (Statewide). All historic highway marker applications to be considered at the December board meeting must be submitted by this date. Contact: Scott Arnold, (804) 367-2323, ext. 122, [sarnold@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:sarnold@dhr.state.va.us).

**16 Certified Local Government Training Session** (Leesburg). Training session for staff and review board members of Certified Local Governments. Speaker Wendy Price, Mary Washington College, and Audrey Tepper, National Park Service, will present sessions on local ordinances and preservation law and the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation respectively. Location: Leesburg City Hall. The 10 a.m.–2 p.m. sessions are free. Box lunches may be purchased for the lunchtime working session. A walking tour of Leesburg will follow the sessions. Contact: Scott Brooks-Miller, (540) 722-3442, [sbrooksmiller@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:sbrooksmiller@dhr.state.va.us).

**18–October 18 Fall River Renaissance** (Statewide). Virginia's month-long campaign to encourage citizens to learn about, enjoy, and care for its aquatic resources. Adopt a stream in a historic district or plant trees and other vegetation on your historic site to prevent erosion—the only limit is your imagination. Contact: Katherine Harding, (804) 367-2323, ext. 136, [kharding@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:kharding@dhr.state.va.us).

## October

**1–31 Virginia Archaeology Month** (Statewide). "Archaeology 2000—Celebrating Partnerships." Thirty institutions

across the state are sponsoring programs including exhibits, lecture series, tours, and children's events. For an event calendar, contact Beth Acuff at (804) 367-2323, ext. 134, [bacuff@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:bacuff@dhr.state.va.us).

**20-23 Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Conference** (Franklin). This four-day conference offers an array of archaeological activities including meetings, lectures, banquets, and site tours. Contact: Russell Darden, (757) 653-2508.

## December

**15 Highway Marker Application Deadline** (Statewide). All historic highway marker applications to be considered at the March 2001 board meeting must be submitted by this date. Contact: Scott Arnold, (804) 367-2323, ext. 122, [sarnold@dhr.state.va.us](mailto:sarnold@dhr.state.va.us).

### Keep These Dates on Your Radar:

- **March 18–20, 2001**—Virginia Association of Museums Conference, Richmond
- **May 13–19, 2001**—National Historic Preservation Week
- **May 18–20, 2001**—Preservation Alliance of Virginia Annual Conference, Roanoke

### Did You Know?

You can travel to historic places in Virginia's northern Piedmont on the Internet. The newly launched "Journey Through Hallowed Ground" site takes visitors on an online tour, covering 75 miles and nine counties. The journey evokes in vivid detail the soldiers, statesmen, farmers, free African Americans, and slaves who lived, fought, toiled, and governed the region. Each of the 64 featured historic places has a brief description of its significance, a photograph, directions, and public accessibility information. The site, produced by the National Park Service in partnership with DHR, Scenic America, and Piedmont communities, can be found at [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/journey](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/journey).



## **Support Historic Preservation -** *Check That Box on Your Income Tax Return*

*This year as you file your state income tax return, please take a moment to check off the box that enables you to make a donation to Virginia's Historic Preservation Fund. Legislation passed by the General Assembly created this important option to provide a convenient way to support heritage education, landmark preservation, and the operation of historic sites. The fund is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and all donations are fully tax deductible. Deductions can be claimed in the following year. For your support, we thank you!*

**Central Office:**

2801 Kensington Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23221  
(804) 367-2323  
(804) 367-2391 (Fax)

**Roanoke Region Office:**

1030 Penmar Avenue, SE  
Roanoke, VA 24013  
(540) 857-7585  
(540) 857-7588 (Fax)

**Capital Region Office:**

19 B Bollingbrook Street  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
(804) 863-1620  
(804) 863-1627 (Fax)

**Winchester Region Office:**

107 N. Kent Street, Suite 203  
Winchester, VA 22601  
(540) 722-3427  
(540) 722-7535 (Fax)

**Portsmouth Region Office:**

612 Court Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(757) 396-6707  
(757) 396-6712 (Fax)

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